

PTO/SB/08a (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/981,178
Filing Date	October 16, 2001
First Named Inventor	Gene Stellan et al.
Art Unit	3763
Examiner Name	Mathew F. DeSanto
Attorney Docket Number	2334 DIV (203-2519 DIV)

Sheet 1

of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
/MFD/		US-5,215,526	08/01/1993	Deniega et al.	
		US-5,248,298	09/28/1993	Bedi et al.	
		US-5,263,937	11/23/1993	Shipp	
		US-5,338,305	08/16/1994	Plyley et al.	
		US-5,350,393	09/27/1994	Yoon	
		US-5,364,372	11/15/1994	Danks et al.	
		US-5,370,625	12/06/1994	Shichman	
		US-5,399,167	03/21/1995	Deniega	
		US-5,431,635	07/11/1995	Yoon	
		US-5,437,643	08/01/1995	Transue	
		US-5,441,513	08/15/1995	Roth	
		US-5,462,532	10/31/1995	Gresl	
		US-5,549,564	08/27/1996	Yoon	
		US-5,578,053	01/28/1996	Yoon	
		US-5,591,190	01/07/1997	Yoon	
		US-5,626,598	05/06/1997	Roth	
		US-5,645,556	07/08/1997	Yoon	
		US-5,645,557	07/08/1997	Yoon	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
/MFD/		WO 02/11605	02/14/2002	United States Surgical		

Examiner
Signature

/Matthew DeSanto/

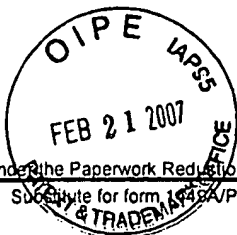
Date
Considered

03/30/2007

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



PTO/SB/08a (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1042A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/981,178
Filing Date	October 16, 2001
First Named Inventor	Gene Stellan et al.
Art Unit	3763
Examiner Name	Mathew F. DeSanto
Attorney Docket Number	2334 DIV (203-2519 DIV)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
/MFD/ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓		US-5,669,885	09/23/1997	Smith	
		US-5,772,660	08/30/1998	Young et al.	
		US-5,827,315	10/27/1998	Yoon	
		US-5,860,996	01/19/1999	Urban et al.	
		US-5,980,493	11/09/1999	Smith et al.	
		US-6,017,356	01/25/2000	Frederick, et al.	
		US-6,036,711	03/14/2000	Mozdzierz et al.	
		US-6,099,544	08/08/2000	Wolf et al.	
		US-6,319,266	11/20/2001	Stellan et al.	
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
Signature

/Matthew DeSanto/

Date
Considered

03/30/2007

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.